

use this great tragedy as the catalyst for a proposition we should be considering, but I believe school prayer should be strongly considered by this body. People who pray together are not likely, through history, to kill one another. I believe it is a reasonable thing to pursue. It may not be the total answer, but it is a start in the right direction.

Let me remind Members that the Constitution may separate church and state, but it was never intended to separate God and the American people. We all pray for the families and grieve for the victims.

SENSELESS VIOLENCE IN COLORADO

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, like my colleagues here, we all rise today to express our grief and sadness to the families of Littleton, Colorado, and once again the television sets across this country have flashed the words, "breaking news." This is another incident of violence that has occurred at one of our Nation's schools.

Yesterday, senseless and tragic shooting at Columbine High School is another painful reminder of the risk our children face every day as they attend school.

Last year in my district I held several townhall meetings to discuss the issue of school violence. The interest generated by these forums provided an important dialogue for community leaders across Nevada. They are doing an important job in helping to find the solutions to prevent these terrible incidents from occurring in our State.

As Members of Congress, we have the responsibility to work in a bipartisan manner to provide our teachers, parents, students and school officials with a safe, drug-free learning environment. Our students, their education, their future and their safety demand no less.

Mr. Speaker, with a heavy heart, I yield back the balance of my time and pray for the families in Colorado.

ONE CITIZEN, ONE VOTE

(Mr. CUMMINGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the fundamental principle of one citizen, one vote. Sadly, high campaign costs and fund-raising abuses are eroding this essential feature of our democracy.

In 1976, \$540 million was spent on all elections and 20 years later, in 1996, that figure had risen to an alarming \$4 billion.

Our political process has become a marketplace where a higher value is placed on economic and fund-raising activities than on political ideology, accountability and service.

The American people want political commitment, not a political market.

They want a system where inequalities generated by the market economy do not undermine political equality. Let us give the American people what they want: Equal access and a commitment to service instead of campaigns. Let us pass bipartisan campaign finance reform and revive the guarantee of one citizen, one vote.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

(Mr. RADANOVICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROGAN); the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR); the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), and a bipartisan group of legislators in introducing a resolution to bring together all the U.S. records on the Armenian Genocide and to provide this collection to the House Committee on International Relations, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the Armenian Genocide Museum in Yerevan, Armenia.

U.S. archives contain extensive documentation of the widespread opposition to Ottoman Turkey's brutal massacres and deportations. They contain, as well, records of the unprecedented efforts of the American people to bring relief to the survivors of this, the century's first genocide.

In introducing this legislation, we challenge those who would deny genocide, past or present.

Please add your name today as a co-sponsor of this legislation and join with me at the Armenian National Committee's Genocide Observance being held this evening at the Rayburn House Office Building.

SISTER TO SISTER FLY-IN

(Ms. MCKINNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, for several years I have sponsored the Sister to Sister Fly-In, an event that allows women from my district to come to Washington and discuss issues that are important to them, issues like health care, child care, improved public education, and protecting Social Security.

Today, I would like to welcome some 50 women from Georgia's 4th Congressional District who are here with me to experience firsthand how our political system works and how they, as women, are changing the landscape of American politics.

Currently, 65 women serve in the U.S. Congress, a record 9 in the Senate, and a record 56 in the House. Although we have been shut out of the political process in the past, we have always been in the vanguard of social change, including women like Rosa Parks, whom we honored yesterday with the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The increased participation of women in the political process is a must for

ensuring that women have an equal say in the crucial issues that affect us all.

STOP THE VIOLENCE

(Ms. DUNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, there are no words to describe the tragedy that took place yesterday at Columbine High School in Colorado. As a mother, I can only empathize with those parents who were waiting for hours to find out if their son or daughter was able to leave that school safely.

These young people have seen more in a few hours than any of our Nation's children should see in a lifetime. Parents whose children were one month from graduating, one month from starting a brand-new chapter in their lives are now grieving with an inconceivable loss. This community has a heartache no one in his worst nightmare could ever have imagined.

After the school shooting in Springfield, Oregon last year, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) and I teamed up in an effort to do something to stop the violence on our Nation's school grounds. There is no cure-all, but the Schoolyard Safety Act will help by beginning awareness before the tragedy occurs.

We know that legislation is not the final solution. High school students at Columbine reported they knew the suspects in the shooting were troubled, youths who needed our help long before the tragedy occurred. But how do we help these children before they act out violence?

A discussion needs to take place with our students across the Nation. We need to talk to our children, after they get home from school, every night at the dinner table, on weekends, to find out what they are thinking, what they are feeling. The solution is found with our children.

Mr. Speaker, nothing can stop the heartache of the community of Littleton, Colorado. We can only pray for students and families and pull our communities together to stop violence.

TRAGEDY IN COLORADO

(Mr. ROEMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce and a father of three children, I rise to ask for the prayers and join in the grieving for the families that lost children in Littleton, Colorado. We lost, reports indicate, maybe 16 of our children. We have lost more children in one day than we have lost in four weeks of bombing in Kosovo. We have lost children in Pearl, Mississippi and Paducah, Kentucky. We have lost children in Jonesboro, Arkansas and Springfield, Oregon. We have lost children to violence throughout the last several years.